



Mayor Kim Norton  
201 4th Street SE – Room 281  
Rochester, MN 55904-3782  
Phone: (507) 328-2700 Fax: (507) 328-2727  
FIRST CLASS CITY • FIRST CLASS SERVICE



May 27, 2020

Governor Tim Walz  
130 State Capitol  
75 Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Liquor & Indoor/Outdoor Dining Changes

Dear Governor Walz:

Thank you so much for your continued communication and work during this pandemic.

I am writing on behalf of myself and the Rochester City Council. We are undertaking action to help support our community during this time, including amending our Local Emergency Declaration to provide staff authority to provide assistance to bars and restaurants in quickly opening outdoor areas.

On a related note, I am writing with two specific requests to the state around allowable uses for restaurants related to liquor and dining. Specifically we are encouraging the following:

1. **The state to allow cities the discretion to allow non-contiguous areas for outdoor dining/liquor.** This would likely be achieved through communication and work with the Alcohol and Gambling Enforcement Division (AGED) of the Department of Public Safety.
2. **The state to allow 25% use of indoor space in restaurants.** We appreciate the recent determination that restaurants may operate in limited capacity in their outdoor spaces. Along with that, we request a similar manner be extended to allow all restaurants to open and provide service and use of 25% of their indoor spaces.

As a medical destination, Rochester will have to be a leader in community based strategies in order to protect our vulnerable patient population and for visitors to feel comfortable coming here and see this request as an extension of that work.

If you have questions, please contact myself or city staff who are working closely on this issue: Anissa Hollingshead, City Clerk/Director of Communications ([AHollingshead@rochestermn.gov](mailto:AHollingshead@rochestermn.gov)) or Aaron Parrish, Deputy City Administrator ([aparrish@rochestermn.gov](mailto:aparrish@rochestermn.gov)).

We greatly appreciate your time, attention, and support on this and other efforts important to Rochester and the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Kim Norton'.

Kim Norton  
Mayor, City of Rochester